Khajuraho Airport

3321. KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift Khajuraho Airport to somewhere else in view of the security of Khajuraho Temple;

(b) if so, the place where it is proposed to be shifted;

(c) whether the above shifting of the airport is likely to decrease the earnings from domestic and foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to review its decision?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Diversion of Funds

3322. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the funds allocated for the development of tribal areas of Bihar is diverted for flood and drought relief every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

[English]

Hostel facility to SC/ST students

3323. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe students provided the hostel facility during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the dropouts in schools in Scheduled areas particularly of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students;

(c) whether the steps taken in this regard are sufficient to prevent dropouts;

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such high dropouts?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A total number of 31,568, 35,361 and 22,994 SC/ST students were provided with hostel facilities during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Constructions of Boys and Girls Hostels for SCs/STs.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) to (e). Several steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments to reduce dropout among SC/ST students. Some of the steps taken by the Central Government are:

- Provision of incentives such as scholarships, text-books, hostel facilities etc.,
- Provision of primary schools within one Km. distance for habitation with a population of 200;
- Improvement of facilities in primary schools under the scheme as Operation Black Boards;
- Adoption of target group oriented strategies and fixing of separate targets for access, anticipation and achievement for ST children;
- Diversification and improvement of programme of non-formal education for children who remain outside the formal school system;
- Opening of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas.

As a result of these measures, dropout rate among SC/ST students is generally declining.

[Translation]

Exploitation of Labourers

3324. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers of Bihar particularly those of tribal areas are migrating to other States;